

CLASSIFICATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 4 Dec. 1950

SUBJECT Soviet Maneuvers in the Gulf of Finland

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1. A formation of the Soviet Navy was observed holding maneuvers off the island of Gross-Tuetters (sic) ($59^{\circ}51' N/27^{\circ}12' E$) between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on 8 May 1950. The formation was comprised of 2 cruisers, 4 destroyers, 8 torpedo boats, about 10 large PT boats, and about 40 small PT boats. The 40 small PT boats laid a smoke screen in front of the formation. (1)
2. The cruisers had two raking funnels; two masts forward, one aft; two guns forward, four aft; were 8,000 to 10,000 tons in size and had a high speed. (2) The destroyers were a new type and had two funnels close together, two high masts, one twin gun forward, and two twin guns aft, about four smaller guns at the sides, some torpedo tubes, were 2,500 to 3,000 tons in size, and had a very high speed. (3) The torpedo boats were between 500 and 600 tons in size, had very high speeds and resembled the latest German torpedo boats. (4) The PT boats were of usual type, about 23 meters long.
3. A Soviet naval formation was observed off the western tip of Miumaa Island ($58^{\circ}55' N/22^{\circ}40' E$) and the northwest coast of Saaremaa Island ($58^{\circ}30' N/22^{\circ}30' E$) between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. on 9 May 1950. (5) The formation consisted of two cruisers, eight torpedo boats, about four PT boats or motor minesweepers, a six submarines, and four other vessels which could not be distinctly seen but probably were large destroyers.

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Comments:

- (1) The maneuver of the Soviet formation probably dealt with the approach of a landing force directed against the island of Gross-Tuetters. See Annex 1. The formation approached the island under cover of a smoke screen laid by numerous PT boats. The prevailing wind drove this screen toward the island at a rate of about 8 knots and thus protected the formation from being sighted from the island.
- (2) Cruisers of the Maxim Gorki Class, characterized by a fighting mast forward and two pole masts between the latter and the forward funnel. This type carries two triple turrets forward and one aft.
- (3) Presumably destroyers of the O Class, the latest Soviet type of destroyer.
- (4) Some of the torpedo boats probably were of the German 600-ton type dating from the years 1938 to 1941, of which the Soviet Navy received only two.

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(5) The formation seems to be the same as the group sighted the previous day off Gross-Tuetters. Annex 2 shows that the main portion of the formation was riding at anchor under shelter of the coast. The vessels described as destroyers seem to have been proceeding to the sea through the channel between Hiiumaa and Saaremaa Islands. From the observations it appears that all the vessels were in riding or cruising formations. Judging from their tactical formations and the kind of maneuvers that were carried out, the tactical groups (squadron) seems to be in the initial stage of formation training. Another formation simulating an enemy was not observed. Cooperation with air force units was not stated.

2 Annexes; (1) and (2) Formations of Soviet Navy

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